

Service of rededication on the theme of unity

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Call to worship

Let us worship God.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Lord you have been our dwelling place

All **in all generations.**

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

All **from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Psalm 90:1-2

or

Praise to God for the gifts of the past;

All **for the witness of the people of God
who went before us.**

Praise to God for the gifts of the present:

All **we meet Christ and serve him
in friend and stranger.**

Praise to God for the gifts of the future:

All **in darkness and in light
the Spirit will lead us.**

Hymn or song

Introduction

God calls us to be one,
to share the unity
that binds the Trinity together in love.
We have come to rededicate ourselves
to seek that unity with all of God's people,
so that God may be glorified
and the whole creation sing praises.

Prayers of Approach

Loving and faithful God,
we come into your presence rejoicing.
We come to sing your songs of praise;
we come to hear your words of power;
we come to share your all-embracing love.

Be present among us
as we seek to remember our past
and rededicate ourselves to your future.

Called to be your people,
we pray in the name of your Son,
our saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

or

Eternal God,
you give us light to guide us
on our journey through life.
You give us life to fill us
so that we may know
we are truly your children.

We know you in Jesus Christ
who is for us the way,
the truth and the life.

Help us never to depart from this way
but to walk it with patience and humility.
May we always seek the truth,
with honesty and openness,
knowing that it will set us free.
So Christ's life will be in us
and we may come to fullness of life.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Confession

As followers of Jesus we have failed time and again,
and so we make confession of our brokenness
and seek God's forgiveness.

Silence

We have built up walls to divide the body of Christ
and ignored its unity.

All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

We have dwelt upon what separates us,
and not sought what makes us one in the body of Christ.

All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

We have belittled each others' gifts and traditions.

All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

We have not loved you, Lord,
as we find you in our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

or

Let us confess our sins to God.

Gracious God,
you call us to offer ourselves to you
in adoration and worship,

All **but we have held back in selfishness and pride.**

You call us to renewal through your Holy Spirit,

All **but we have grown dull and tired,
clinging to comfortable old ways.**

You call us to declare the saving power of your Son,

All **but we have muffled your message
with our doubts and indifference.**

You call us to share Christ's ministry of love,

All **but we have turned aside from those in need.**

You call us to witness to Christ's rule over the nations,

All **but we have not allowed Christ to rule in our lives.**

**Forgive us and help us to respond anew
to your call to worship and service.**

Assurance of Pardon

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
that everyone who has faith in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

To all who repent and believe,

I declare in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
God grants you the forgiveness of your sins.

All **Thanks be to God.**

or

There is rejoicing in heaven
when we turn from our sins.
Rejoice, people of God;
in Christ, your sins are forgiven!

All **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of the day

Almighty God,
you promised through your Son
that you would remain with your Church forever.

We praise and thank you for those
who brought to birth the United Reformed Church,
in answer to your gospel call.

Increase in us the spirit of faith and love
that we may be worthy of our heritage,
and that our fellowship may be an example to all;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

or

Gracious God,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth takes its name,
we give you thanks and praise
for all we have learned of the breadth,
length, height and depth of Christ's love,
through the life of the United Reformed Church.

We pray for the inward strength
and power of your Holy Spirit
that we may be set free
to leave the security of the familiar
and discover you calling us
from unknown lands
where we can be more truly
the people you have made us to be.

We give glory to you
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
praying that his power
will continue to work in us and through us,
and believing that he can achieve
more than we can ever ask or conceive.

Yours are the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn or song

Readings from Scripture

Some suggested readings:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Psalm 133, Isaiah 11:1-9, Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Testament:

John 15:1-10, John 17:20-26, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Romans 12:1-2

Sermon or other proclamation of the Word

Hymn or song

Thanksgiving and rededication

For the worship offered in prayer and praise,
for the preaching of the Word,
for the celebration of the Sacraments,
through this church.

All **All praise and thanks to God.**

For the faith of all believers in Christ,
for the carrying of the gospel into all the world,
for the furtherance of the unity of all God's people
enabled by this church.

All **All praise and thanks to God.**

For the support and nurture of God's people,
for the care of young and old,
for the calling of all to a life of service,
through this church.

All **All praise and thanks to God.**

For the proclamation of God's truth,
for the care of the downtrodden,
for the giving of hope and courage
enabled by this church.

All **All praise and thanks to God.**

For the opposing of all that is evil,
for the promoting of human worth,
for action for peace and justice,
through this church.

All **All praise and thanks to God.**

For all who by word and deed
have brought this church into being,
for their living example to us,
for their faith and their hopes and dreams
built upon Jesus Christ the cornerstone.

All **All praise and thanks to God.**

or

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have led us as a shepherd,
guiding your flock towards the river of life
which flows through the holy city.
We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the future you have prepared for us
and the mission you share with us
until all things are gathered into one in Christ
and there is no hurt, no harm, on all your holy mountain.

Until that day
may we proclaim the gospel with courage and integrity,
point to the kingdom with excitement and commitment,
and let our self-seeking plans die
so that resurrection may burst forth
surprising us with joy.

Encourage us in the tasks which are before us,
give us your consolation in our failures,
and never let us become complacent.
Confirm us in your Holy Spirit
that, in our life together, we may find peace.
Grant us the strength to live in the world for your reign
and hope in the fulfilment of the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Covenant God, in your presence,
within the living community of the gathered saints,
in the company of the communion of those
who journeyed alongside you before us

we reaffirm our delight in sharing our lives with you.

All **You have been our God and we have been your people.**

We renew our commitment to serve and follow you.

All **You are our God and we are your people.**

We rededicate ourselves to care for the world
around us in your name.

All **You shall be our God and we shall be your people.**

Preserve us from seeking acclaim and success
in the eyes of the world,
guard us from needing to be needed
before we see your love for us,
protect us from faith that asks no questions and risks nothing.
Where you lead may we follow, today and every day.

All **Amen.**

Confession of faith

An appropriate statement of faith may be said.

Prayers for the Church and the world

The service may continue with the Lord's Supper.